

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, UN

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS COMMENTS ON US POSITION ON PALESTINIAN
QUESTION AND UNSC DEBATE

REF: CAIRO 0641 (171211Z JAN 76)

1. AKHBAR JANUARY 19 CARRIES EDITORIAL STATING THAT ARAB WORLD
WILL BE LISTENING WITH GREAT INTEREST BOTH TO AMBASSADOR
MOYNIHAN'S STATEMENT AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 19 BEFORE UNSC ON
US ME POSITION AND TO PRESIDENT FORD'S STATE OF UNION MESSAGE
LATER THAT EVENING. ACCORDING TO AKHBAR, ARABS WAITING TO HEAR
WHETHER SPEECHES CONTAIN REFERENCES TO PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS" OR
PALESTINIAN "INTERESTS." IN LATTER CASE, CONCLUDES AKHBAR,
ARABS MUST VIEW WITH "EVERY RESERVATION" WHAT USG SAYS CONCERNING
AMERICAN DESIRES FOR JUST PEACE IN ME.

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2. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES TO DOWNPLAY UNSC PROCEEDINGS (GUMHURIYYA OFTEN DOES NOT EVEN REPORT DEVELOPMENTS ON FRONT PAGE), IMPRESSION BEGINNING TO EMERGE FROM BETWEEN LINES OF ARTICLES THAT EGYPTIANS STEELING THEMSELVES FOR US VETO. AKHBAR JANUARY 17 FOR FIRST TIME RAISED POSSIBILITY OF US VETO OVER "RIGHTS" VERSUS "INTERESTS" QUESTION (REFTEL) WHILE AHRAH JANUARY 18 REPORTED THAT ARAB AMBASSADORS AT UN WORKING HARD TO PRESENT PALESTINIAN RESOLUTION GENERAL ENOUGH TO ALLOW ALL ARAB DELEGATIONS TO UNITE BEHIND IT. IMPLICATION WAS THAT ARAB UNITY WAS MANDATORY IN FACE OF UN INTRANSIGENCE.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO BE GLOSSING OVER OTHER PROBLEMS AT UNSC (I.E., PALESTINIAN DEMAND FOR RIGHT OF RETURN, SYRIAN DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL TIME-TABLE AND FUTURE UNSC SESSIONS, WEST EUROPEAN DEMANDS FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST) IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ON "RIGHTS" VERSUS "INTERESTS" CONTROVERSY. GOE AIM WOULD APPEAR TO BE BOTH TO PRESSURE USG TO MODIFY STANCE ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION (WHICH, SHOULD THIS OCCUR IN FUTURE, WOULD ALLOW GOE TO CLAIM A VICTORY) AND TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT EGYPT ISOLATED DURING UNSC DEBATE. EGYPTIAN PRESS CONCENTRATION ON "RIGHTS" VERSUS "INTERESTS" ISSUE LIKELY TO INCREASE IN WAKE OF MOYNIHAN STATEMENT.

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